

CONFIDENTIAL

JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Monday - 19 November 1973

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1. [] Angus Thuermer called to say he had received a call from Bob Novak who apparently is lining up a column for tomorrow's paper. Novak told Thuermer that he understood there was public testimony in the Watergate hearings to the effect that the formation of the "plumbers" had had the blessing of CIA. When Thuermer tried to pin him down on this, Novak said his source of information indicated that the President had made this statement to a group of Senators Wednesday night. Novak was interested in any reference we could give him to public testimony on the subject. We gave Thuermer several references to Dick Helms' testimony of 21 May 1973 before the ~~Senate Foreign Relations Committee~~ and told him we thought it important to distinguish between the "plumbers" operation on the one hand and the domestic intelligence work in which Tom Charles Huston was involved. Mr. Helms had signed off on the Huston memorandum but the role which the Agency was to perform was strictly that of a foreign intelligence adviser.

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3. [] Discussed with John Goldsmith, Senate Armed Services Committee staff, problems of the press play that the Andrew St. George article and other allegations against the Agency are now getting. He agrees with Senator Symington's thesis about different elements in the Washington establishment who are trying to discredit the Agency and Helms.

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